



Amarra™ sQ





User Manual

www.sonicstudio.com

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Chapter 1 Amarra sQ Overview

Thank you for purchasing Amarra sQ™ v2.0! Note that Amarra v2.0 requires a new Activation Code. Your Amarra sQ v1.0 Activation Code will no longer work. See [page 15](#) for more information

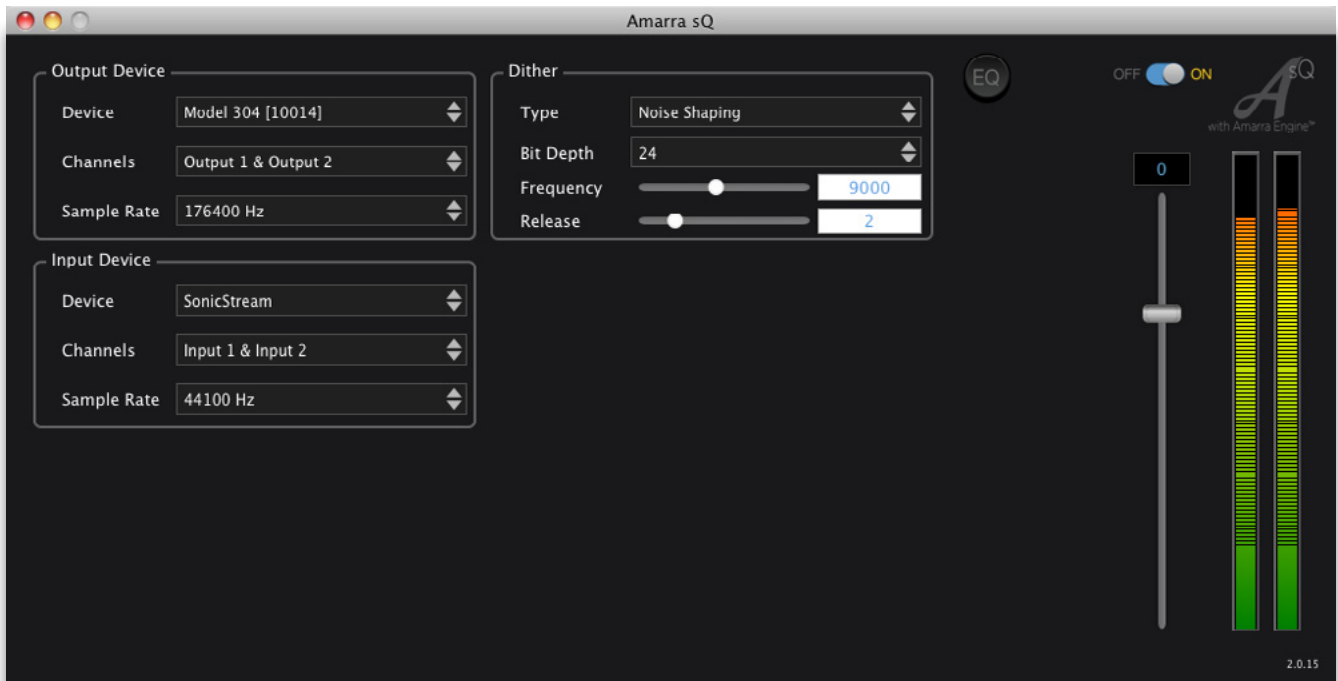
Amarra sQ is a stand-alone application for Mac OSX that is designed to improve the audio quality of all audio on your Mac, including streaming sources such as:

- Beats Music, Google Play, iTunes Radio, Pandora, Rdio, Spotify and other audio sources
- YouTube, NetFlix, iTunes, Hulu Plus, Vimeo and other video sources
- Your iTunes music library

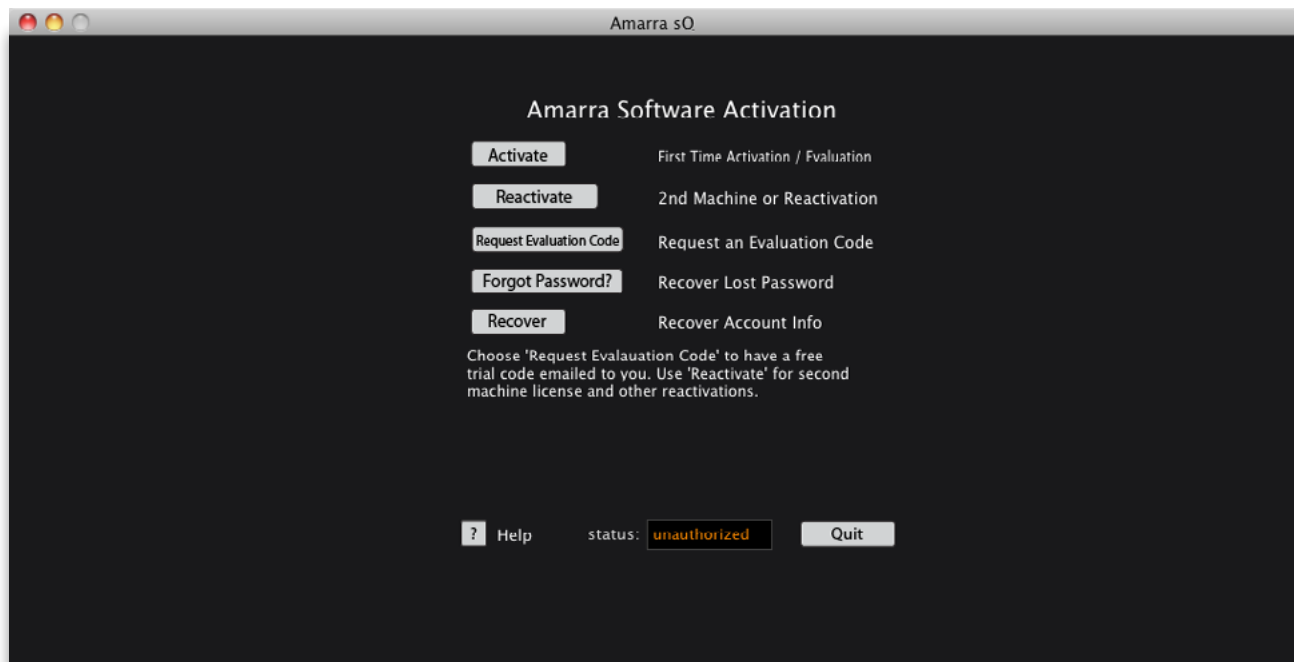
Amarra sQ uses the same great audio technology that's in both our Amarra music player and soundBlade mastering software. Amarra sQ also incorporates precision volume control ([page 32](#)) a fully functional four-band EQ ([page 33](#)), that's useful for tonal shaping and enhancing any audio content from your Mac.



The Amarra sQ EQ (Equalizer) Window.



The Amarra sQ Preferences Window.



The Amarra sQ Activation Window.



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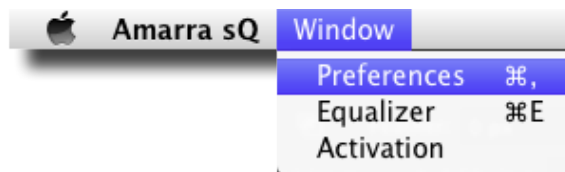
1.1 Amarra sQ Quick Start

Launch Amarra sQ and activate as Evaluation ([page 11](#)) or Licensed ([page 15](#)).

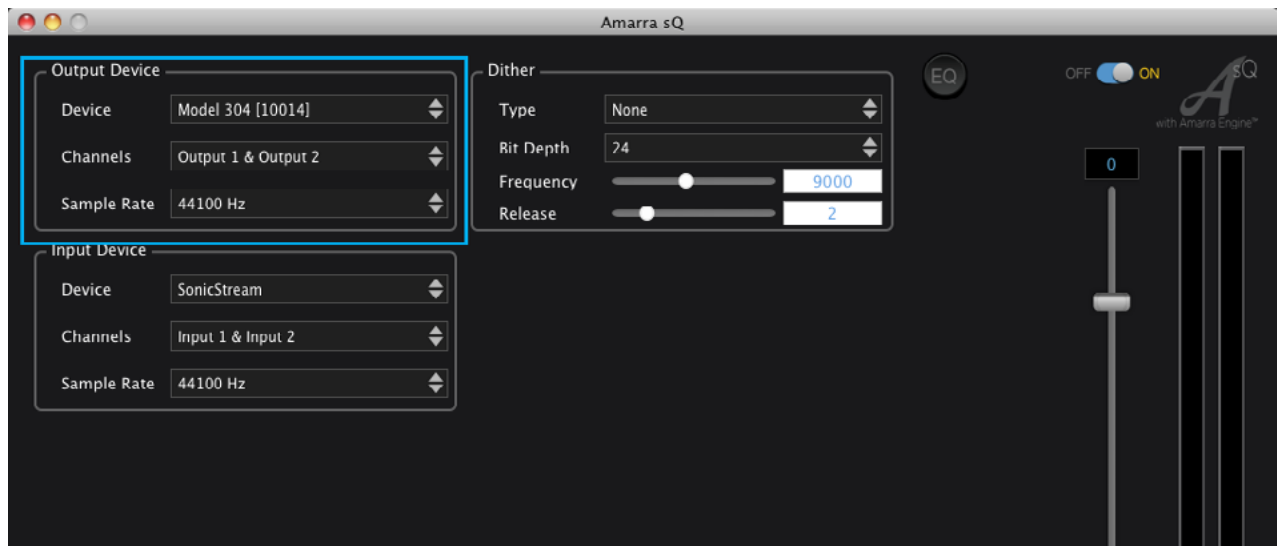
First check that the SonicStream driver was correctly installed as a restart maybe required after installation. Verify the driver in Sound Output of the System Preferences Sound Tab (or use Audio MIDI Setup).

“SonicStream” should be in the list of devices. If “SonicStream” is missing please restart your computer and it should appear. If not a reinstall of the software is required.

1. In the Preferences window, set the Audio Device to use for output. This is generally your Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC), but it could be set to any device in the list. Leave the sample rate at 44100 Hz for now.



Select 'Preferences' from the Window Menu to open Amarra sQ Preferences



Amarra sQ Preferences window ([page 23](#))

- Set Output Device to your Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC)
- Leave or set Input Device to SonicStream



Caution: To prevent equipment or hearing damage, you should reduce the volume control in Amarra sQ prior to first playback; -15 or so is a good start. Adjust the volume control to an appropriate level later.

2. Switch to EQWindow by clicking the EQ button or from the Window menu, select Equalizer.
3. Open your audio streaming or playback app and listen!

1.2 Amarra sQ Signal Flow

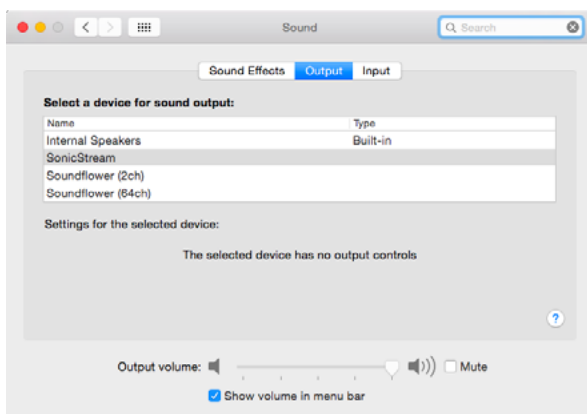
Music From:

- Beats Music, Google Play, iTunes Radio, Pandora, Rdio, Spotify and other audio sources
- YouTube, NetFlix, iTunes, Hulu Plus, Vimeo and other video sources
- Your iTunes music library

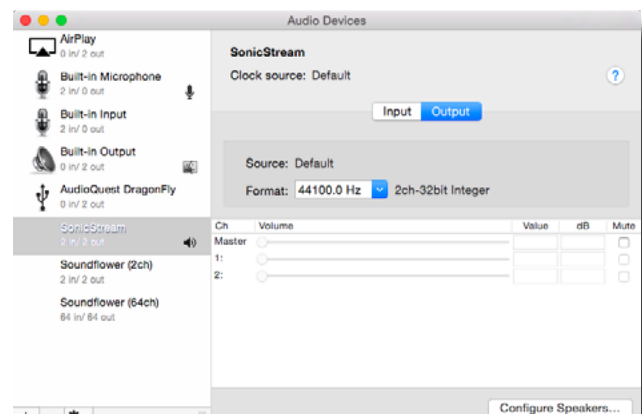


On install, Amarra sQ creates a new virtual Audio Device called 'SonicStream'. This Device is the audio 'brain' of Amarra sQ. Audio flows from your streaming audio source (iTunes Radio, Pandora, YouTube, Tidal etc.), into the Amarra sQ/Sonic Stream environment, then out to your DAC.

You should see the SonicStream Device in both your Mac's Sound Preferences window and in Audio Midi Set Up. Amarra sQ will automatically select that Device for use on launch.



The Mac [Sound Preference Window's](#) Output Tab



[Audio MIDI Set Up](#) Window.



Important: Amarra sQ automatically sets the SonicStream Device as the Output Device. You should not change to a another device manually. Routing to your output device should be done through the Amarra sQ Preferences Window ([page 23](#)).

Chapter 2.....Amarra sQ Set Up

2.1 Mac Host Requirements

At a minimum, Amarra sQ requires the following:

- Apple Macintosh Intel 2.6 GHz minimum or faster preferred
- 17" or larger display
- 3 GB RAM minimum, 4 GB RAM or more preferred
- OS 10.6.8 or newer

2.2 Installing/Uninstalling Amarra sQ

Installing Amarra sQ follows the same installation process as most other applications on your Mac. To install Amarra sQ, double-click on the Amarra_sQ_Installer.pkg. You can download the Installer from:

http://www.sonicstudio.com/sonic/support/sonic_support#DOWNLOAD

Follow the on-screen instructions to install and launch your software.

You may uninstall Amarra sQ as follows

- Navigate to your Applications->Amarra sQ->Extras folder in Finder
- Double click on the 'Uninstall Amarra sQ.app'

This action removes the Amarra sQ software and any other related stuff that was installed. You can quit the Terminal app. after running.

2.3 Launching, Activating and Using Amarra sQ

To Activate your Amarra software, you will need the following:

- Your Amarra or Amarra Symphony 3.0 Activation Code, sent to you at time of purchase or by Sonic Studio directly.
- A working Internet Connection

There are two methods for activating Amarra sQ:

1. **Evaluation/Trial Mode:** Free 15 day full-function trial. See [page 11](#)
2. **Permanent Activation:** You are delivered an Activation Code after purchase. See [page 15](#)



Learn: Amarra sQ software is protected with softWorkz software DNA.

Learn more at softworkz.com.

2.3.1 Evaluation Mode Activation

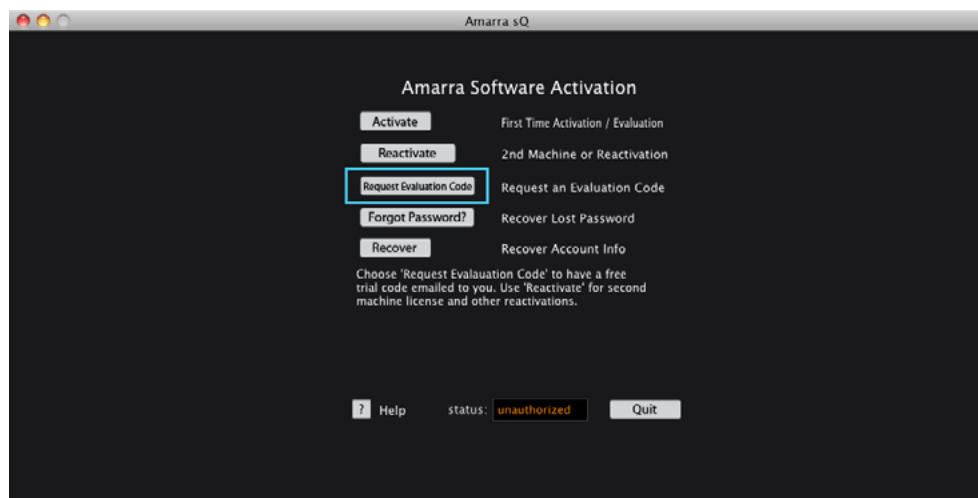
This Section provides important information regarding evaluating or 'trying' Amarra sQ software.

TUTORIAL VIDEO:

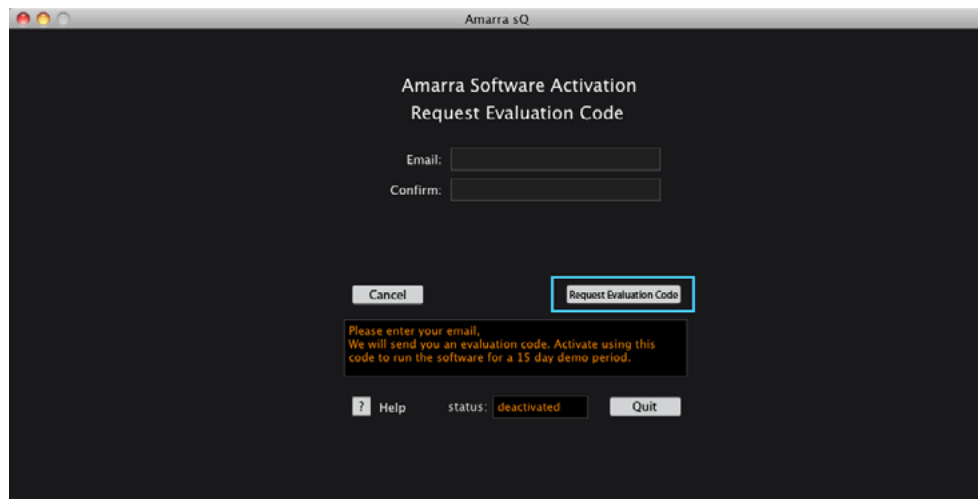
The [How To Activate Amarra sQ In Evaluation Mode Video](#) gives step-by-step instruction on activating Amarra sQ in full function, 15 day evaluation mode.



A FREE 15 day, full-feature trial of Amarra sQ is available. When you launch Amarra sQ you will be presented with the following dialog box -- click the 'Request Evaluation Code' button:



Click 'Request Evaluation Code' button.



Enter and confirm your Email address, then click the 'Request Evaluation Code' button to have a 15 day Evaluation Code sent to you via email.

- Enter your Email address, then click the 'Request Evaluation Code' button to have a 15 day Evaluation Code sent to you via email.
- Check your email for a message from 'activation@softworkz.com' containing your 15 day Evaluation Code. Note that we do not distribute your information outside of Sonic Studio, LLC.

activation@softworkz.com <activation@softworkz.com>

To: [redacted]

Evaluation Code for Amarra sQ - SAM-ASQ

Automated email message - DO NOT REPLY - For Technical or Support inquiries contact support@sonicstudio.com

Your evaluation code for the Amarra sQ - SAM-ASQ is: ASQDBYXSKQDFMTGXR3VEYVZ

Check your email for your Evaluation Code message.

- Double click on the Evaluation Code to select it.

activation@softworkz.com <activation@softworkz.com>

To: [redacted]

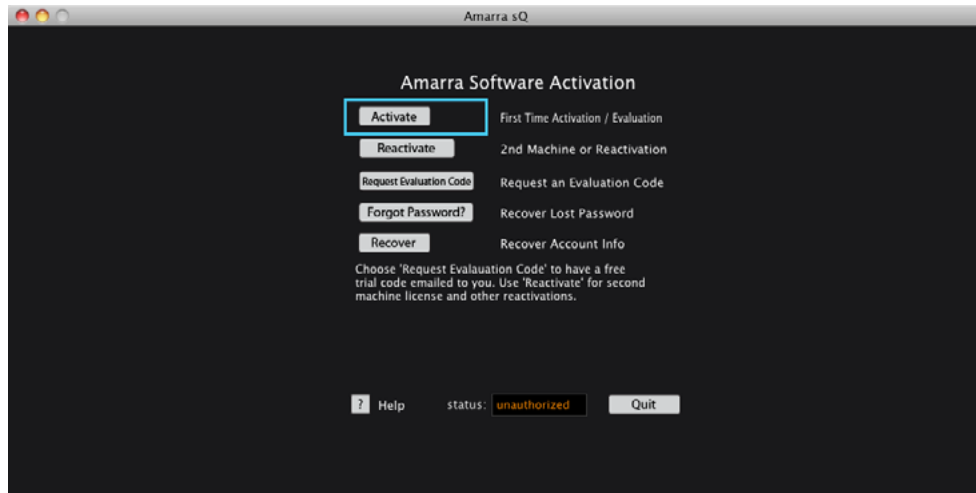
Evaluation Code for Amarra sQ - SAM-ASQ

Automated email message - DO NOT REPLY - For Technical or Support inquiries contact support@sonicstudio.com

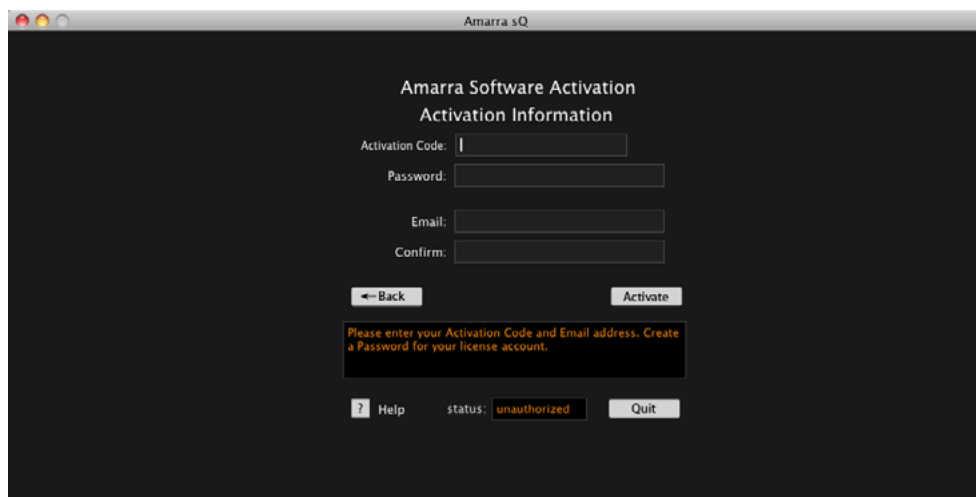
Your evaluation code for the Amarra sQ - SAM-ASQ is: ASQDBYXSKQDFMTGXR3VEYVZ

Double click on the Evaluation Code. That action highlights the code.

- From the Edit menu, select 'Copy' or use the keyboard shortcut of holding down the **⌘** key and hitting the C key. This action copies your Evaluation Code in its entirety and places it in your Mac's clipboard.
- If the Request Evaluation Code window is still open, click the '<-Back' button to return to the main Activation Window.
- In the main Activation Window, click 'Activate':



Click the 'Activate' button. The following window appears:

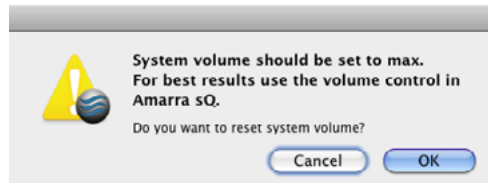


Double click on the Activation Code field to select it.

- Double click on the Activation Code field to select it.
- On your keyboard, hold down the command key (**⌘**) and then hit the V key. That action pastes the Activation Code you copied earlier into the Activation Code field, eliminating the need to type in the Activation Code manually.
- Double click in the Password field to select it.

- Create your own password 3-16 characters in length and enter that password in the password field. Passwords should be simple and easy to remember. AsQ01 or YourName01 are good examples.
- Double click in the Email Address field to select it, then Add your Email address - if you lose your password, it can be sent to this address later.
- Click on the 'Activate' button to activate your Amarra sQ software.

Amarra sQ launches. You'll be reminded that, for best performance, your Mac's System volume should be set to Maximum. Click OK.



Caution: To prevent equipment or hearing damage, you should reduce the volume control in Amarra sQ prior to first playback; -15 or so is a good start. Adjust the volume control to an appropriate level later.

Switch to EQ Window by clicking the EQ button or from the Window menu, select Equalizer.



The Amarra sQ EQ (Equalizer) Window. ([page 33](#))

Open your audio streaming or playback app and listen!



HINT: Need More Time To Evaluate Amarra sQ Software?

To request another 15 day code contact us at sales@sonicstudio.com.

2.3.2 Permanent Activation Mode

This Section provides important information regarding permanently activating your Amarra sQ software. Note that Amarra sQ can be activated on two (2) Macs at the same time. See the Reactivation section on [page 26](#).



Important: Amarra sQ 2.0 uses a different licensing process and Activation Code than Amarra sQ v1.0. If you are an Amarra sQ v1.0 user, you should have received a new Activation Code. If not please contact sales@sonicstudio.com for your free Activation Code. This Activation Code is free for v1.0 users.

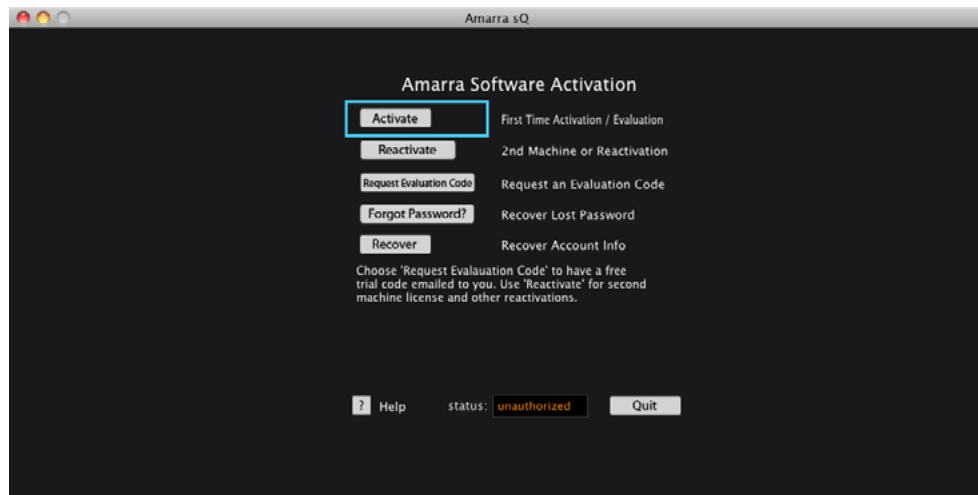
New Amarra sQ v2.0 Activation Codes begin with the letters 'ASQ'.

TUTORIAL VIDEO:

The [How To Permanently Activate Amarra sQ Video](#) gives step-by-step instruction on activating Amarra sQ with an Activation Code.

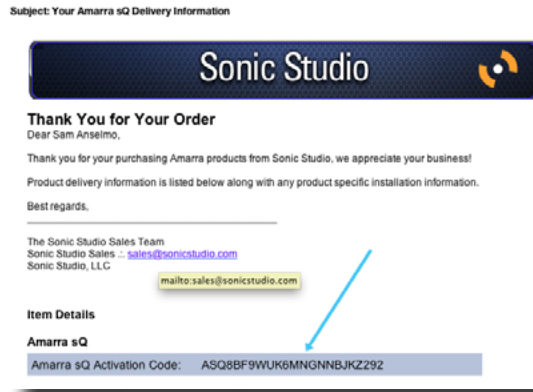


When you launch Amarra sQ you will be presented with the following dialog box -- click the 'Activate' button:



Click 'Activate' button.

- Check your email for a your sales receipt. That document contains your Activation Code.



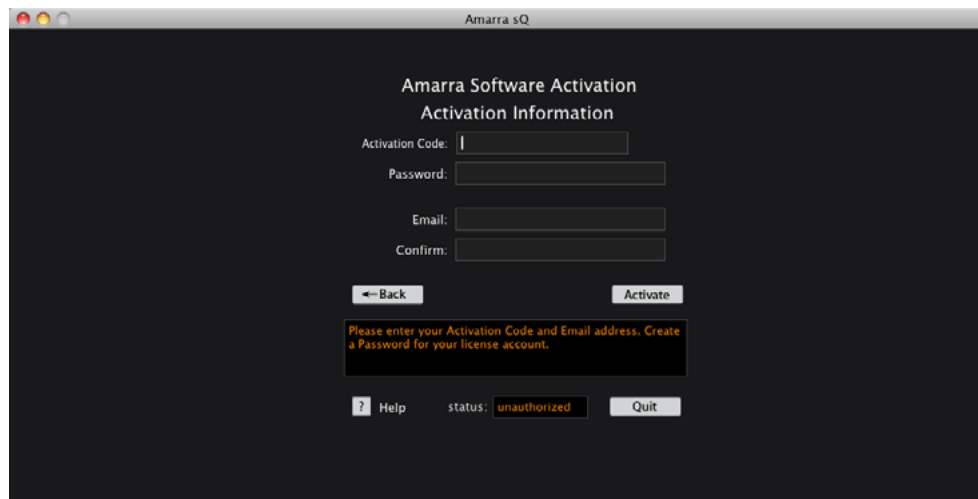
Check your email for your Activation Code message.

- Double click on the Activation Code to select it.



Double click on the Activation Code. That action highlights the code in blue.

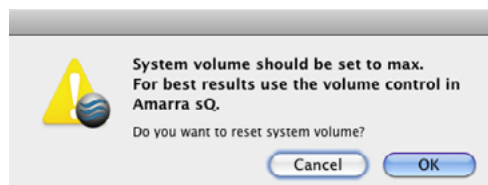
- From the Edit menu, select 'Copy' or use the keyboard shortcut of holding down the **⌘** key and hitting the C key. This action copies your Activation Code in its entirety and places it in your Mac's clipboard.
- Locate the Activation Code field and double click to select it.



Double click on the Activation Code field to select it.

- On your keyboard, hold down the command key (⌘) and then hit the V key. That action pastes the Activation Code you copied earlier into the Activation Code field, eliminating the need to type in the Activation Code manually.
- Double click in the Password field to select it.
- Create your own password 3-16 characters in length and enter that password in the password field.
- Passwords should be simple and easy to remember. AsQ01 or YourName01 are good examples.
- Double click in the Email Address field to select it, then Add your Email address - if you lose your password, it can be sent to this address later.
- Click on the 'Activate' button to activate your Amarra sQ software.

Amarra sQ launches. You'll be reminded that, for best performance, your Mac's System volume should be set to Maximum. Click OK.



Note that we do not distribute your information outside of Sonic Studio, LLC.



Caution: To prevent equipment or hearing damage, you should reduce the volume control in Amarra sQ prior to first playback; -15 or so is a good start. Adjust the volume control to an appropriate level later.

Switch to EQ Window by clicking the EQ button or from the Window menu, select Equalizer.



The Amarra sQ EQ (Equalizer) Window. ([page 33](#))

Open your audio streaming or playback app and listen!

2.3.3 Lost Your Activation Code?



Can't find your Activation Code? [Get Your Activation Code Here](#)

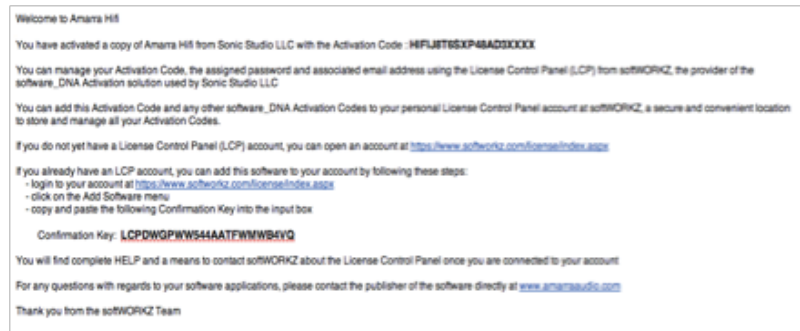
Not Sure Which Amarra Product You Own? Use the [Find Your Amarra App page](#)

2.4 Managing your Amarra sQ License

The License Control Panel is a powerful tool that lets you manage your Amarra Activation Code, the assigned password and associated email address. The License Control Panel (LCP) is managed by softWORKZ, the provider of the software_DNA Activation solution used by Sonic Studio LLC.

2.4.1 Your confirmation Email

Shortly after purchasing your copy of Amarra, you will receive a message from softWORKZ, similar to the message below, with your Confirmation Code. You will need this to manage your licenses on the LCP.



2.4.2 Setting Up your User Account

If you do not yet have a License Control Panel (LCP) account, you can open an account at <https://www.softworkz.com/license/index.aspx>. You will need to fill in a form depicted in the image below

2.4.3 Adding Software to your Account

If you already have an LCP account, add this software to your account by following these steps:

- Login to your account at <https://www.softworkz.com/license/index.aspx>
- Click on the Add Software Menu
- Copy and paste your Confirmation Key into the input box

Add New software to your Account

To add new software to your account, you will need the **Confirmation Key** that was sent to you by email. This email is sent to you after you activate your software for the first time.

Please 'Copy and Paste' the Confirmation Key from the email here:

Enter Confirmation Key

2.4.4 Logging into your Account

Once your account is setup and your licenses are loaded, you can easily manage your account by logging into your License Control Panel Account at

<https://www.softworkz.com/license/index.aspx>

The screenshot shows the login interface for softWORKZ. On the left, there is a 'License Administrator Login' button. Below it, a link reads 'Why open a softWORKZ account?' with a 'New Account' button underneath. The right side of the page features a login form with 'User Name:' and 'Password:' labels, each followed by a text input field. A 'Login' button is positioned below the password field. A 'Reset Password?' link is located below the login button. The softWORKZ logo is visible in the top left corner of the page.

NOTE: We strongly recommend ALL users open a License Control Panel Account to be able to manage their account and license as needed. If you have any problems, please contact us at support@sonicstudio.com

Chapter 3.....Amarra sQ User Interface



1) Equalizer Preset/Headphone Profile Knob	2) EQ Global On/Off
3) Amarra sQ On/Off (Mute Button)	4) EQ Visualizer
5) Gain/Volume Control (Fader)	6) Open Saved Filter
7) Save Current Filter	8) High-Definition Meters

3.1 Amarra sQ Equalizer (EQ) Window

This section describes the functionality of the Amarra EQ window. This is the main window for Amarra sQ. It contains volume and tone (equalizer or EQ) controls as well as buttons to save/open EQ settings, turn off EQ and mute Amarra sQ’s output.

3.1.1 Equalizer Preset/Headphone Profile Knob

Click on a preset or Click+Hold and move the knob to select a preset of your choice.

The left side of the Equalizer Preset Knob contains preset tone controls or filters. Most of these filters mimic the EQ presets available in iTunes. The one exception is the ‘Mac Laptop’ setting. That filter is designed to compensate for the shortcomings of the speakers in a laptop computer.

The right side of the Equalizer Preset Knob contains Profiles for many of today’s popular headphones.

Use the Save button to save and name your own custom EQ settings. Use the Open button to open previously-saved EQ settings into the 'Custom' knob position.



Important: Since many of these Presets and Profiles add or reduce volume or gain, you may need to adjust the Gain/Volume slider up or down to compensate for this change in level. See [page 32](#) for information about Volume Control.

3.1.2 EQ Global On/Off

This button toggles the Amarra sQ's Equalizer (EQ) on or off and is useful for comparing the sum of all changes made to an EQ.

3.1.3 Amarra sQ On/Off (Mute Button)

This button mutes or stops the output of Amarra sQ.

3.1.4 EQ Visualizer Window

This Equalizer or EQ window is designed to provide infinite control of the tone or timbre of your streaming sources. Think of this as four controls that adjust Bass (red dot), Low-Midrange (yellow dot), High-Midrange (green dot), and Treble (blue dot) frequencies.

If you are uncomfortable with adjusting these controls on your own, try moving through the EQ Presets or the Headphone Profiles.



LEARN: See [page 33](#) below for filter descriptions and graphical representations of their capabilities.

3.1.5 Gain/Volume Fader

Adjusts the overall gain of the plug-in. Parameters are +6 to -60 dB. Option click to (re)set to zero. Cmd+up/down arrow to adjust volume; Function F11 and Function F12 to adjust volume.

3.1.6 Open Saved Filter

This button opens a Mac Finder Window for you to navigate to and open a previously saved filter. Filters are stored in Documents/Sonic Studio/EQ Presets.

3.1.7 Save Current Filter

This button opens a Mac Finder Window for you to title and save a new filter that you have created. Filters are saved in Documents/Sonic Studio/EQ Presets.

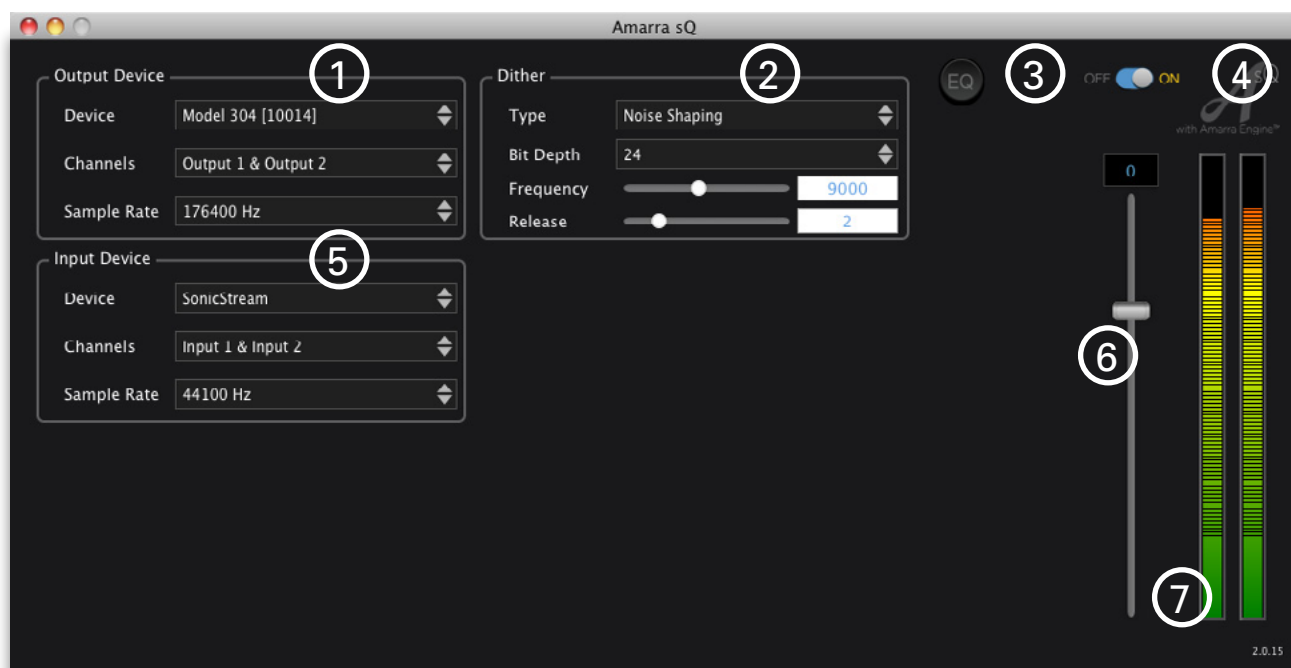
3.1.8 High-Definition Meters

The Meters section graphically displays real-time indications of Peak, RMS and VU values with hyper-ballistic accuracy. At the top of the meter strips, The meter strip will turn red when an over-zero level is detected.



LEARN: If an over-zero level is shown, you should reduce the gain/volume fader by a few dB.

3.2 Amarra sQ Preferences Window



The Amarra sQ Preferences Window.

1) Output Device Preferences	2) Dither Preferences (Output)
3) ReturnTo Equalizer (EQ) Window Button	4) Amarra sQ On/Off (mute) button
5) Input Device Preferences	6) Gain/Volume Control (Fader)
7) High-Definition Meters	

3.2.1 Output Device Preferences

This section of the Amarra sQ Preferences Window defines the output device, channels and sample rate of the device that you send the signal from Amarra sQ to.

3.2.1.1 Device Menu

Choose your output device from this menu. Your Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC), Built-In-Audio features like headphone/line output or AirPlay are chosen from this list. That action sets Amarra sQ's output to feed to the device chosen from the menu.

3.2.1.2 Channels Menu

Choose/route the output channels on your output device that Amarra sQ sends to. Most devices are only stereo, but if your device supports more than one pair of output channels, they can be selected here.

3.2.1.3 Sample Rate Menu

Set the sample rate of your device here. You can up-sample to the highest sample rate of your DAC.



LEARN: Using Amarra sQ, it's possible to up-sample your streaming audio. If your Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) supports sample rates higher than the Amarra sQ app default rate of 44.1 kHz, simply select a higher rate from the Sample rate pull-down menu.

3.2.2 Dither Preferences (Output)

This section of the Amarra sQ Preferences Window defines the dither types, bit depth, frequency and release time when using dither on the output. Dither is applied at the last stage of output. 'None' (no dither) is also available.

3.2.2.1 Type Menu

Select the type of dither: None, Rectangular PDF, Triangular PDF, Noise Shaping and Rectangular with Noise Shaping.

More on dither and these dither types can be found here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dither#Digital_audio

3.2.2.2 Bit Depth Menu

Choose the bit depth of the dithered output from Amarra to your DAC.

3.2.2.3 Frequency/Release Menu

Frequency, as Hertz or Hz defines the crossover point where the dither is applied to the audio signal. The default value of 9000 Hz is best for general use.

Release defines, as milliseconds, the amount of time before turning dither off after zeros or digital black is encountered at the end of a track.

3.2.3 Input Device Preferences

This section of the Amarra sQ Preferences Window defines the input device, channels and sample rate that you receive the signal to Amarra sQ. Select SonicStream from this list. The input menu should always be set to SonicStream.

3.2.3.1 Device Menu

SonicStream is the default and should be used. Do not change this.

3.2.3.2 Channels Menu

Should be left at default settings and not changed.

3.2.3.3 Sample Rate Menu

This is an unsupported feature. Sample rate changes should be made from the Output Device menu.

3.3 Activation Windows

This section describes the Amarra sQ Activation Windows. The Activation Windows are used to permanently activate, evaluate or recover your license.

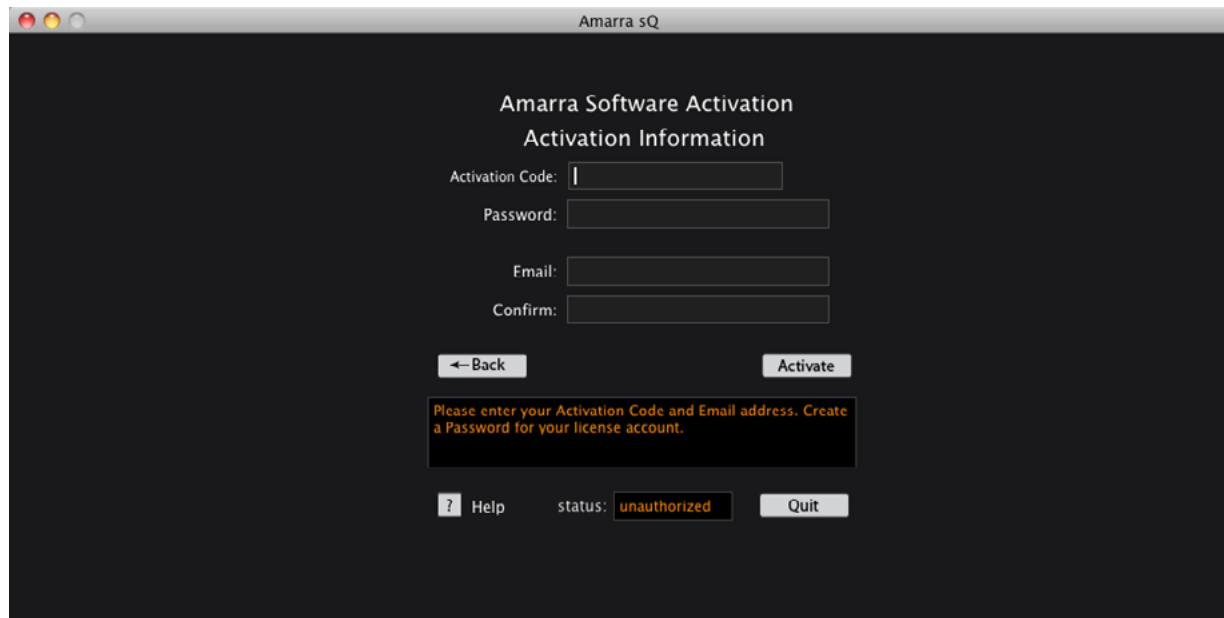


The Amarra sQ Preferences Window.

1) Activate Button	2) Reactivate Button
3) Request Evaluation Copy Button	4) Forgot Password? Button
5) Recover Button	6) Help
7) Status	8) Quit

3.3.1 Activate Button

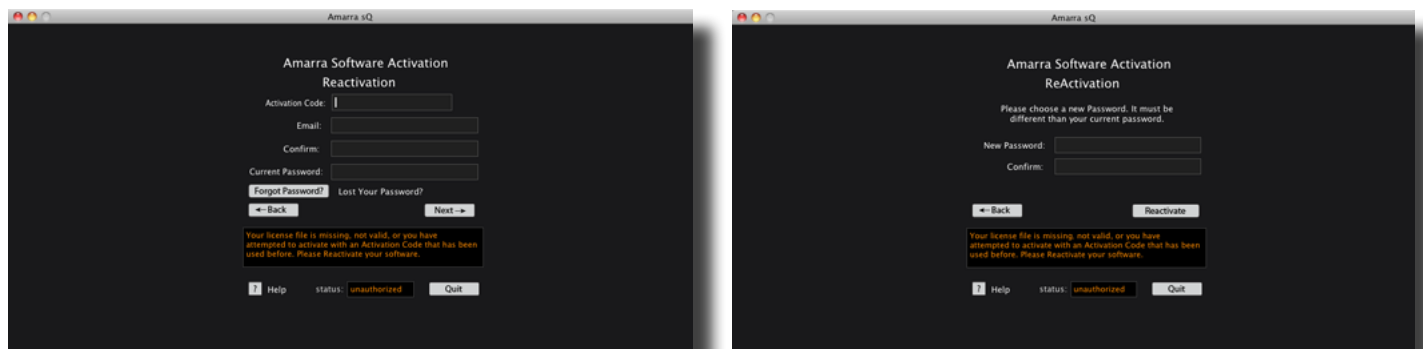
Clicking the Activate Button opens the Amarra Software Activation Window. Use this Window to Activate your Amarra sQ application for both Evaluation and Permanent use. For Trial/Evaluation Activation info see [page 11](#). For Permanent Activation information see [page 15](#).

The image shows a macOS window titled "Amarra sQ". The window has a dark gray background. At the top, it says "Amarra Software Activation" followed by "Activation Information". Below this are four text input fields: "Activation Code:", "Password:", "Email:", and "Confirm:". Below the fields are two buttons: "← Back" and "Activate". A yellow text box in the center contains the message: "Please enter your Activation Code and Email address. Create a Password for your license account." At the bottom, there is a "? Help" button, a "status: unauthorized" label, and a "Quit" button.

Amarra sQ Activation Window.

3.3.2 Reactivate Button

Clicking the Reactivate Button opens the Amarra Software Reactivation Window. Use this Window to Reactivate your Amarra sQ application or to install your Amarra sQ software on a second Mac.

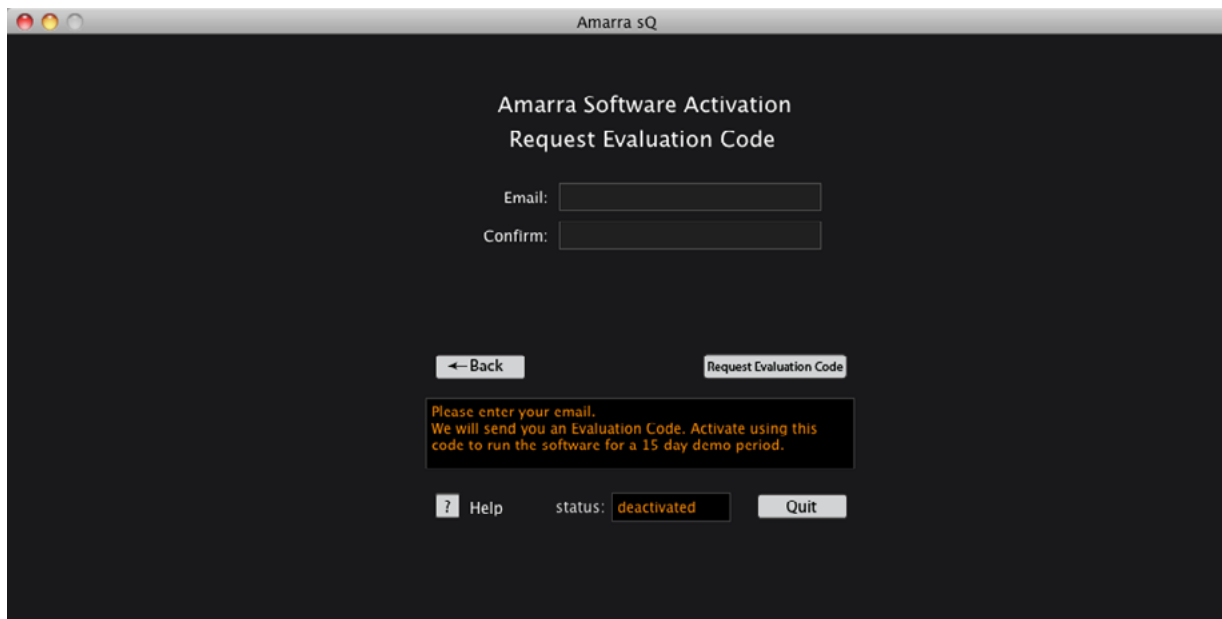
The image shows two side-by-side macOS windows titled "Amarra sQ". Both windows have a dark gray background. The left window is titled "Amarra Software Activation Reactivation" and contains fields for "Activation Code:", "Email:", "Confirm:", and "Current Password:". It also has a "Forgot Password? Lost Your Password?" link and "← Back" and "Next →" buttons. The right window is titled "Amarra Software Activation ReActivation" and contains fields for "New Password:" and "Confirm:". It has "← Back" and "Reactivate" buttons. Both windows have a yellow text box in the center with the message: "Your license file is missing, not valid, or you have attempted to activate with an Activation Code that has been used before. Please Reactivate your software." At the bottom of each window, there is a "? Help" button, a "status: unauthorized" label, and a "Quit" button.

Amarra sQ Reactivation Windows

Enter your Amarra sQ Activation Code, email address and confirm. Click 'Next'. Type in a new, unused password, more than 3 characters and less than 16 characters, re-enter in the Confirm field, then click 'Reactivate'.

3.3.3 Request Evaluation Code Button

Clicking the Request Evaluation Code Button opens the Evaluation Request Window. Use this Window to request an 15 day Evaluation Code for your Amarra sQ application. For Trial/Evaluation Activation info see [page 11](#).



Amarra sQ Request Evaluation Code Window.

3.3.4 Forgot Password?

To recover a lost password, please enter your Activation Code. Your Password will be sent to the email address associated with that code.

3.3.5 Recover Activation Code Button

Clicking this button takes your to [Get Your Activation Code](#)

Not Sure Which Amarra Product You Own? Use the [Find Your Amarra App page](#)

3.3.6 Help Button

Clicking the Help button opens the Help Guide for Amarra sQ.

3.3.7 Status

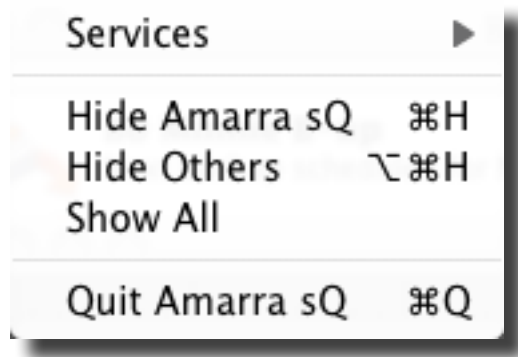
Shows real-time Activation Status for Amara sQ.

3.3.8 Quit

Clicking this button terminates the Activation process and Quits Amarra sQ.

3.4 Menus

3.4.1 Amarra sQ Menu



3.4.1.1 Services

The Services menu item provides access to Mac OS X's system-wide services.

3.4.1.2 Hide Amarra sQ

Use the Hide Amarra sQ menu item to hide Amarra sQ and all of its open windows, allowing you access to other programs running in Mac OS X. Clicking on the Amarra sQ icon in your Dock returns Amarra sQ to view. The keyboard shortcut for this item is ⌘H.

3.4.1.3 Hide Others

Use the Hide Others menu item to hide all visible applications except Amarra sQ allowing you to focus on Amarra sQ alone. Clicking on any icon in the dock will return that application to view. The keyboard shortcut for this item is Option⌘H.

3.4.1.4 Show All

The Show All menu item reveals all running programs in Mac OS X.

3.4.1.5 Quit Amarra sQ

Use the Quit Amarra sQ menu item to quit Amarra sQ and close all open windows. The keyboard shortcut for this item is ⌘Q.

3.4.2 Window Menu



3.4.2.1 Preferences ⌘,

Selecting this menu item opens the Amarra sQ Preferences Window. Like most Mac applications, the keyboard shortcut for this item is ⌘,. See [page 23](#) for more information on the Preferences Window.

3.4.2.2 Equalizer ⌘E

Selecting this menu item opens the Amarra sQ Equalizer (EQ) window. The keyboard shortcut for this item is ⌘E. See [page 21](#) for more information on the Equalizer Window.

3.4.2.3 Activation

Selecting this menu item opens the Amarra sQ License/Activation window. See [page 25](#) for more information on Activating Amarra sQ.

Chapter 4.....Trouble Shooting

4.1 Playback

Problem	Possible Cause	Fix
Can't Hear Sound in Amarra sQ	Your DAC is not set for output in Audio Devices Settings Window. "SonicStream" is not in the list of devices in Sound Preferences or Audio Midi Set Up.	See page 23 for info on configuring Audio Device Settings. "SonicStream" should be in the list of devices. If "SonicStream" is missing please restart your computer and it should appear. If not a reinstall of the software is required.
Can't Hear Sound after quitting Amarra sQ	Your DAC did not reset properly after quitting Amarra Symphony.	Change the output device from SonicStream to your DAC in Sound Preferences or Audio MIDI Set Up.
Output meters are overloading	The volume or EQ settings are too high.	Turn down the volume fader until red overload indication goes away. See page 32 .
Output is too low	Volume fader is set too low.	Turn the volume fader up until it reaches a desirable level. See page 32 .

4.2 Licensing

Problem	Possible Cause	Fix
Can't Activate Demo	Activation Code is not correct You've tried Amarra sQ before.	Please contact sales@sonicstudio.com for another 15 day trial.
Can't Activate License	Activation Code is not correct Your computer is not connected to the Internet.	Verify that you copied and pasted the correct code. Connect your computer to the Internet to Activate your software. See page 35 .

4.3 Contacting Sonic Studio, LLC

Thanks for purchasing a Sonic Studio product. We really appreciate your patronage and are always interested in your experiences with Amarra.

Sonic Studio Support Portal:

www.sonicstudio.com/amarra/amarra_supportportal

For bug reports and frequently-asked questions (FAQ), visit

www.sonicstudio.com/amarra/amarra_faq

Updates to Sonic SQ, when available, are in the Downloads section of the Sonic Studio website.

www.sonicstudio.com/amarra/amarra_support#DOWNLOAD

Appendix A.....Amarra sQ Volume & Equalizer Controls

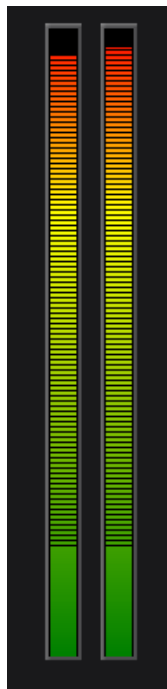
Appendix A.1 Amarra sQ Volume Control

The output volume control for Amarra sQ is a high precision digital gain adjustor. Because the output of streaming audio sources vary widely and the Equalizer can add volume depending on settings, the volume control allows for easy compensation.

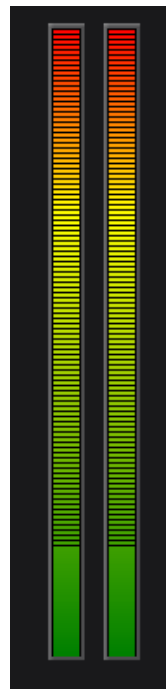
A.1.1 Adjusting Volume



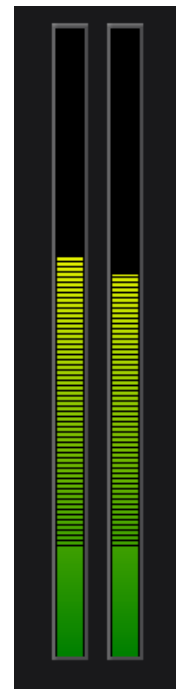
Output volume level fader. Moving fader up increases volume, moving fader down decreases volume.



Volume level is good. Maximum Peak level should have some black area left at the top of the Meter.



Meter indicates volume is too loud(RED). This will cause distorted sound. Turn down the Master level control.



Meter indicates volume is too low. Turn up the Master level control.



Important: Optimizing the output volume is an essential set up process. Having the volume too loud will cause distorted output. Setting the volume too low will minimize the benefit of Amarra sQ.



LEARN: Adjusting Volume From Your Keyboard

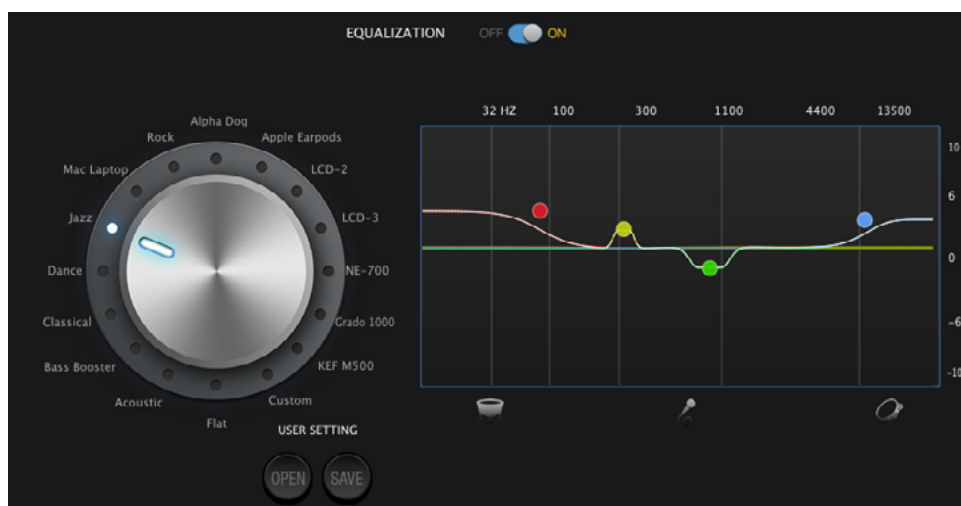
Use the Cmd+up/down arrow to adjust volume.

Use Function F11 and Function F12 (Volume up/down buttons on your keyboard) to adjust volume.

Appendix A.2 Amarra sQ Equalizer (EQ) Control

A.2.1 Equalizer Overview

A cool feature included with Amarra sQ is the mastering-grade audio equalizer control section. This equalizer gives you endless control over the tone or timbre of the signal output.



This control has four sections (Dots) of adjustment:

1. Red Dot= Bass frequencies.
2. Yellow Dot= Low midrange
3. Green Dot= High midrange
4. Blue Dot= Treble (high) frequencies

To change an EQ setting, click on a Preset or Click+Hold and move the knob to select a preset of your choice.

The left side of the Equalizer Preset Knob contains preset tone controls or filters. Most of these filters mimic the EQ presets available in iTunes. The one exception is the 'Mac Laptop' setting. That filter is designed to compensate for the shortcomings of the speakers in a laptop computer.

The right side of the Equalizer Preset Knob contains Profiles for many of today's popular headphones.



LEARN: It's important to note that audio equalization is a subjective process. There is no single 'correct' setting. Only your ears can decide which settings are best for you. Also, for some users, the Flat setting or turning the equalizer off may be best.



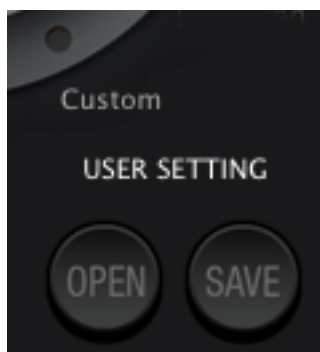
Important: Since many of these Presets and Profiles add or reduce volume or gain, you may need to adjust the Gain/Volume slider up or down to compensate for this change in level.

A.2.2 Adjusting/Changing EQ Settings

Click+hold on one of the Frequency Dots and move up/down to adjust the volume of that band, or move left/right to adjust the frequencies affected.

1. Red Dot= Bass frequencies.
2. Yellow Dot= Low midrange
3. Green Dot= High midrange
4. Blue Dot= Treble (high) frequencies

A.2.3 Save/Open Your Custom EQ Settings



EQ Custom/User Settings/Open/Save

Saving a custom EQ setting is simple. Once you have a setting that you like, click the Save button. This opens a Mac Finder window. Title your custom EQ setting, then click Save.

Your custom filter is set as the last Preset on the right side of the Preset Knob.

Saved filters are located in Documents/Sonic Studio/EQ Presets.

To open a previously-saved filter, select the Open button, select a filter from the list and click Open.

Appendix B.....Amarra sQ Activation F.A.Q

If you have any issues, please review the potential issues below. More information can be found on our FAQ.

General items:

1. Cannot connect to the network - Be sure you are connected to the internet.
2. Activation Code Invalid

Be sure you have entered the code sent to you. Use Copy and Paste to avoid mistakes.

Be sure you are activating the correct software for your license.

3. Password Invalid

When asked to enter a new password, it has to be a 'never before used' password

Passwords may be from 3 to 16 characters long

If you are not sure of your password, use the Forgot Password button to have your password sent to you.

4. LockOut - After 3 unsuccessful attempts at activation, you will be Locked Out and prevented from Activating your software. Write to support@sonicstudio.com and we will clear the Lock Out. Remember to include your Activation code and your IP address (visit www.whatismyip.com to obtain your IP address)

5. Activation required on every launch.

Do the following:

- Delete your current Amarra or Amarra Symphony folder
- Delete any older Amarra folders from your Applications folder
- Delete any Amarra icons from your dock.
- Re-install Amarra and go through the Activation process again to clear the problem

I have entered my code and password correctly with a new password to do a re-activation, why is the application not being re-activated?

Verify that you have an Internet Connection. Your new password must be a new and never-used password. Verify that you have not previously used this password with this activation code.

If you are updating from a trial copy of Amarra or Amarra Symphony or are updating from a different Amarra Product (MINI to Amarra), please delete your current folder prior to launching the new Amarra Installer.

How often will my application connect to the activation server via the Internet?

Your application uses the Internet when it is first installed or when it is re-activated (such as after a disk reformat and reinstall, or if the software is moved to a new computer). The application may also do a quick check with the server when you run the application.

Will my application work if I don't have an Internet connection?

In general, an internet connection is required to activate your copy of Amarra. If no Internet connection is found during activation, or the activation server is not reachable, the software will ask you to do offline activation. The software will provide step- by-step instructions, where a file is written to disk that you move to a computer that does have Internet access (or email access). You can move this file via LAN, floppy disk, CD-R or USB key. You can use your Internet browser (on a machine that does have Internet access) to visit a special page to upload this file and receive another file in return. If you do not have any working browsers then the file can be emailed to our tech support (note there may be a delay in the return of the file depending on the time of day and week).

During activation what information is passed to the server?

No personal information or information about your computer configuration are transferred. A one-way hash* of some machine configuration data, your code, email and password used to activate Amarra are sent to the server during the first activation. We suggest you do not use one of your important personal passwords for the activation password, or a password that personally identifies you.

*One-way Hash: Codes that identify parts of the computer are put through a special function (called a 'one way hash') that turns the codes into one code number that is unique to your computer but cannot be deciphered (or reverse engineered) to determine what those components are. Only this hash value is sent to the activation server and not the details on the computer parts.

Can I move Amarra to another computer?

Yes, this can be done easily. Simply download the Amarra software to your new machine and go through the Activation process. There is no need to deactivate prior to moving your license, the process is automatic when you activate on your new machine. If you have your activation code and password this will be a fast and easy process.

What is the email address for and is it mandatory?

The email address on the activation and reactivation dialogs is mandatory. It can be used to retrieve a lost password. When you provide the email address it will not be used for marketing purposes or sold / provided to any third party. If you do provide an email address we recommend it be one that will be active for some time.

What if I have forgotten my password and did not provide an email address (or my email address is no longer valid)?

During a reactivation the previously provided password is required. If the password has been lost and cannot be recovered (because an email address was not provided, or the email address is no longer valid) you will need to contact our support via email or by phone. We will be happy to reset your password.

Will changes to my computer cause my application to stop working?

There are no changes that will cause a permanent disabling of the software. Major changes (disk reformat being one such major change) will mean that you need to reactivate the software. If you have your Activation code and password this will be a fast and easy process.

What happens if Sonic Studio or softWORKZ suspends service or goes out of business?

Both companies have been in business for several years, and are healthy and stable and will be around for many years to come!

Regardless, your activated application will continue working without the Activation server, although new activations or re-activations will not be possible. Both companies are committed to ensure that a patch will be made available ASAP to resolve this. Either a version with a replaced activation system or a version with no activation will be provided.

I wish to do an online activation but my firewall is set up to block such requests. What are the firewall settings?

The following is the information that you need to setup your firewall:

Main server IP address: reg1.softworkz.com

Backup server IP: reg2.softworkz.com

Backup server IP: reg3.softworkz.com

Port: 80 (Standard HTTP)

Domain: softworkz.com

Why is an activation system required at this time?

Software companies around the world have come to realize that activation- type copy-protection systems provide a reasonable solution to the problem of piracy while at the same time respecting customers by not burdening them with a hard-to-use licensing system. Reducing piracy means that the software vendor can use steady revenues to further improve the product and guarantee business continuation. It is unfortunate that piracy exists because we know the majority of our customers follow the license terms but it is a fact of life in this digital age.

We trust that this new system will be virtually transparent for the majority of customers.

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Comments, corrections and suggestions regarding this manual are always welcome. Please contact us at

<support@sonicstudio.com>.